Application No. 10/664,080 Docket No. C14-161312M/NJK

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are all the claims presently pending in this application.

Claims 1-20 are presently pending in this application.

Claims 1, 4 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Palalau et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,373,472 further in view of Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185.

Claims 1, 6-7 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 further in view of Yamaguchi et al., U.S. Pat. No. 7,143,355.

Claims 2-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 and Yamaguchi et al., U.S. Pat. No. 7,143,355 further in view of Serravalle, Jr., U.S. Pat. No. 4,631,525.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 and Yamaguchi et al., U.S. Pat. No. 7,143,355 further in view of Vanderheiden, U.S. Pat. No. 6,049,328.

Claims 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Palalau et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,373,472 in view of Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 and further in view of Gillespie et al., U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2005/0024341.

Claims 11 and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 further in view of Palalau et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,373,472.

Claims 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 in view of Palalau et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,373,472 and further in view of Gillespie et al., U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2005/0024341.

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Claims 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 in view of Palalau et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,373,472 and further in view of Serravalle, Jr., U.S. Pat. No. 4,631,525.

These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the following discussion.

I. APPLICANT'S CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention, as defined, for example, by independent claim 1, (and similarly independent claims 11 and 20) is directed to an electronic equipment including a display device configured to display information and including a display surface, a touch sensor arranged on at least a part of the display surface, a guide portion configured to protrude from a surface of the touch sensor and to fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a concave portion and a convex portion as a whole, including a reference position on a surface of the touch sensor located between a vertex and a center of one of the concave portion and the convex portion, and a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along the guide portion from the reference position.

Conventionally, in tactile display input devices, a problem exists that a reference position of an operation for specifying a reference value for increasing or decreasing that amount of an adjustment value controlled by depression of the touch sensor from a present value cannot be identified. A direction in which the touch switch part is traced can be detected, but the amount of change in increase or decrease from the reference value can not be set, nor can the amount of change in increase or decrease from the reference value could be set. (Specification at page 2, line 15 to page 3, line 8.)

The claimed invention (e.g., as recited in claims 1, 11 and 20), on the other hand,

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includes <u>a guide portion</u> configured to ... <u>fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a concave portion and a convex portion as a whole</u>, and <u>a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position. These features are important for setting the amount of change in increase or decrease from a reference value with respect to an adjustment value controlled by depression of a touch sensor on the display surface. (Specification at page 3, lines 11-15.)</u>

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection over Palalau et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,373,472 further in view of Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185

The Examiner alleges that Palalau et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,373,472, (Palalau), further in view of Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185, (Stephan), makes obvious the invention of claims 1, 4 and 8.

The Examiner alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Palalau with the teaching from Stephan to form the invention of claims 1, 4 and 8.

Applicant maintains, however that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each element of the claimed invention.

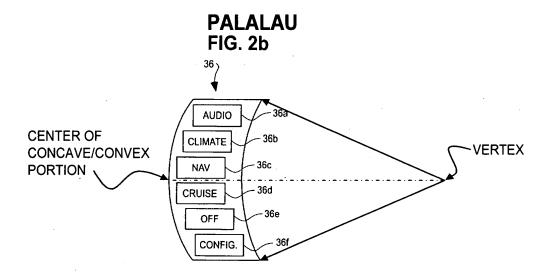
Applicant maintains, however, that neither Palalau, nor Stephan, nor any alleged combination thereof, teaches or suggests, "a guide portion configured to protrude from a surface of the touch sensor and to fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a concave portion and a convex portion as a whole, including a reference position on a surface of the touch sensor located between a vertex and a center of one of said concave portion and said convex portion; and a controller configured to control an adjustment value in

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accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position."

The Examiner alleges that Palalau discloses "a reference position (each function 36a-f in fig. 2b) on a surface of the touch sensor located between a vertex and a center of one of said concave portion and said convex portion (clear from fig. 2b); and a controller (120 in fig. 12a) configured to control a user interface (col. 4, lines 38) in accordance with a touch screen location corresponding to a reference position."

Palalau fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention of "a reference position on a surface of the touch sensor located between a vertex and a center of one of said concave portion and said convex portion." As shown below with respect to Fig. 2b, Palalau fails to teach any "reference position" located between a vertex and a center of one of said concave portion and said convex portion.



The Examiner's interpretation of Applicant's reference position corresponding to each function 36a-f of Palalau is clearly erroneous since Palalau fails to teach any function 36a-f located between a vertex and a center of one of said concave portion and said convex

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portion.

Assuming, arguendo, that one of the feature group switches 28a-f that are activated by the graphical representations 36a-f were <u>located between a vertex and a center of one of said</u> concave portion and said convex portion, Palalau fails to teach or suggest <u>a controller</u> configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position.

The Examiner admits that Palalau fails to teach or suggest, "a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position." However, the Examiner alleges that the textured edges 192 and 194 of Stephan are equivalent to Applicant's "a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position."

However, Stephan fails to teach or suggest, and the Examiner fails to address a <u>reference position</u> from which <u>a slide operation along said guide portion</u> is conducted. This feature of Applicant's claimed invention is important for determining a specific location of a specific control feature operated by a user along the guide portion. The textured edges 192 and 194 that control the vertical scrolling and horizontal panning of Stephan fails to serve the same function as Applicant's <u>reference position</u> used to control <u>an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation</u>.

Indeed, Stephan teaches away from Applicant's claimed invention that any particular portion of the touch screen is used as a <u>reference position</u> used to control <u>an adjustment value</u> <u>in accordance with a direction of a slide operation</u>, in that column 7, lines 38-66 describe "relative" x and y-coordinate movement. This is clearly indicative that the tactile input on the

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touch pads are not in accordance with any particular <u>reference position</u> as claimed by Applicant, but rather, merely input "relative" x and y-coordinate movement to a cursor positioning/control system.

The textured edges 192 and 194, as disclosed at column 10, lines 56-61, "indicate to a user that the user is located in the adjacent pan or scroll regions when the texturing is felt." Textured edges 192 and 194 fail to work in conjunction with any specific reference position. Additionally, Stephan discloses at column 12, lines 40-43 that "regions may be designated with visual or tactile clues as discussed above" allows "user contact with the touch screen at the appropriate location [and] allows control of the cursor, panning, or scrolling." Again, Stephan fails to teach or suggest that the visual or tactile clues work in conjunction with any specific reference position.

Therefore, Stephan fails to overcome the deficiencies of Palalau.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection since the alleged prior art references to Palalau and Stephan (either alone or in combination) fail to teach or suggest each element and feature of Applicant's claimed invention.

B. The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 further in view of Yamaguchi et al., U.S. Pat. No. 7,143,355

The Examiner alleges that Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185, (Stephan), further in view of Yamaguchi et al., U.S. Pat. No. 7,143,355, (Yamaguchi), makes obvious the invention of claims 1, 6-7 and 20.

The Examiner alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Stephan with the teaching from Yamaguchi to form the invention of claims 1, 6-7

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and 20. Applicant maintains, however that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each element of the claimed invention.

Applicant maintains, however, that neither Stephan, nor Yamaguchi, nor any alleged combination thereof, teaches or suggests, "a guide portion configured to protrude from a surface of the touch sensor and to fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a concave portion and a convex portion as a whole, including a reference position on a surface of the touch sensor located between a vertex and a center of one of said concave portion and said convex portion; and a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position."

The Examiner alleges that Stephan discloses, "a reference position on a surface of the touch sensor located between a vertex and a center of said line (col. 7, lines 38-66; Stephan discloses transmitting x and y coordinates that are indicative of the relative movement of the contact point (col. 8, lines 19-22)); and a controller (110 in fig. 3) configured to control an adjustment value (direction of movement and increment of movement) in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position (fig. 4-5; also note col. 7, lines 38-66; which notes that the coordinates transmitted are relative to a reference position)."

However, Stephan teaches away from Applicant's claimed invention that any particular portion of the touch screen is used as a <u>reference position</u> used to control <u>an</u> <u>adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation</u>, in that column 7, lines 38-66 describe "relative" x and y-coordinate movement. This is clearly indicative that the

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tactile input on the touch pads are not in accordance with any particular <u>reference position</u> as claimed by Applicant, but rather, merely input "relative" x and y-coordinate movement to a cursor positioning/control system.

The textured edges 192 and 194, as disclosed at column 10, lines 56-61, "indicate to a user that the user is located in the adjacent pan or scroll regions when the texturing is felt." Textured edges 192 and 194 fail to work in conjunction with any specific reference position. Additionally, Stephan discloses at column 12, lines 40-43 that "regions may be designated with visual or tactile clues as discussed above" allows "user contact with the touch screen at the appropriate location [and] allows control of the cursor, panning, or scrolling." Again, Stephan fails to teach or suggest that the visual or tactile clues work in conjunction with any specific reference position.

The Examiner admits that Stephan fails to teach or suggest, "<u>a guide portion</u>

<u>configured to protrude from a surface of the touch sensor and to fringe the surface with a line</u>

<u>configured by one of a concave portion and a convex portion as a whole</u>."

However, the Examiner alleges that the curved edges of touch pad 6 of Yamaguchi is equivalent to Applicant's "guide portion configured to protrude from a surface of the touch sensor and to fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a concave portion and a convex portion as a whole," wherein the Examiner further alleges that, "each switching segment is seen as a reference position."

However, Yamaguchi fails to teach or suggest a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from a switching segment, as defined by the Examiner. The touch pad 6 of Yamaguchi fails to serve the same function as Applicant's reference position used to control an adjustment

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value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation.

Therefore, Yamaguchi fails to overcome the deficiencies of Stephan.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection since the alleged prior art references to Stephan and Yamaguchi (either alone or in combination) fail to teach or suggest each element and feature of Applicant's claimed invention.

C. The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 and Yamaguchi et al., U.S. Pat. No. 7,143,355 further in view of Serravalle, Jr., U.S. Pat. No. 4,631,525

The Examiner alleges that Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 and Yamaguchi et al., U.S. Pat. No. 7,143,355, (Stephan and Yamaguchi), further in view of Serravalle, Jr., U.S. Pat. No. 4,631,525, (Serravalle), makes obvious the invention of claims 2-3.

The Examiner alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Stephan and Yamaguchi with the teaching from Serravalle to form the invention of claims 2-3. Applicant maintains, however that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each element of the claimed invention.

That is, Serravalle fails to make up for the deficiencies of Stephan and Yamaguchi as discussed above.

The Examiner asserts Serravalle discloses setting an adjustment value to a predetermined reference value when the reference position is depressed.

However, even assuming arguendo that the Examiner's position has some merit,

Serravalle fails to teach or suggest, "a guide portion configured to protrude from a surface of
the touch sensor and to fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a concave portion

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and a convex portion as a whole, including a reference position on a surface of the touch sensor located between a vertex and a center of one of said concave portion and said convex portion; and a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position."

Therefore, Serravalle fails to overcome the deficiencies of Stephan and Yamaguchi.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection since the alleged prior art references to Stephan and Yamaguchi and Serravalle (either alone or in combination) fail to teach or suggest each element and feature of Applicant's claimed invention.

D. The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 and Yamaguchi et al., U.S. Pat. No. 7,143,355 further in view of Vanderheiden, U.S. Pat. No. 6,049,328

The Examiner alleges that Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 and Yamaguchi et al., U.S. Pat. No. 7,143,355, (Stephan and Yamaguchi), further in view of Vanderheiden, U.S. Pat. No. 6,049,328, (Vanderheiden), makes obvious the invention of claim 5.

The Examiner alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Stephan and Yamaguchi with the teaching from Vanderheiden to form the invention of claim 5. Applicant maintains, however that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each element of the claimed invention.

That is, Vanderheiden fails to make up for the deficiencies of Stephan and Yamaguchi as discussed above.

The Examiner asserts Vanderheiden discloses a touch screen device having a concave and convex guide portion, wherein the sliding motion controls an adjustment value, i.e., either

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on or off of an output level of an acoustic signal.

However, even assuming arguendo that the Examiner's position has some merit,

Vanderheiden fails to teach or suggest, "a guide portion configured to protrude from a

surface of the touch sensor and to fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a

concave portion and a convex portion as a whole, including a reference position on a surface

of the touch sensor located between a vertex and a center of one of said concave portion and

said convex portion; and a controller configured to control an adjustment value in

accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference

position." Therefore, Vanderheiden fails to overcome the deficiencies of Stephan and

Yamaguchi.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection since the alleged prior art references to Stephan and Yamaguchi and Vanderheiden (either alone or in combination) fail to teach or suggest each element and feature of Applicant's claimed invention.

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E. The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection over Palalau et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,373,472 in view of Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 and further in view of Gillespie et al., U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2005/0024341

The Examiner alleges that Palalau et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,373,472, in view of Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 (Palalau and Stephan), and further in view of Gillespie et al., U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2005/0024341, (Gillespie), makes obvious the invention of claims 9-10.

The Examiner alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Palalau and Stephan with the teaching from Gillespie to form the invention of claims 9-10. Applicant maintains, however that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each element of the claimed invention.

That is, Gillespie fails to make up for the deficiencies of Palalau and Stephan as discussed above.

The Examiner asserts Gillespie discloses a graphical image the represents an initial value in a parameter adjustment range.

However, even assuming arguendo that the Examiner's position has some merit,

Gillespie fails to teach or suggest, "a guide portion configured to protrude from a surface of the touch sensor and to fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a concave portion and a convex portion as a whole, including a reference position on a surface of the touch sensor located between a vertex and a center of one of said concave portion and said convex portion; and a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position."

Therefore, Gillespie fails to overcome the deficiencies of Palalau and Stephan.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw

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this rejection since the alleged prior art references to Palalau, Stephan and Gillespie (either alone or in combination) fail to teach or suggest each element and feature of Applicant's claimed invention.

F. The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 further in view of Palalau et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,373,472

The Examiner alleges that Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185, (Stephan), further in view of Palalau et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,373,472, (Palalau), makes obvious the invention of claims 11 and 14-16.

The Examiner alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Stephan in view of Palalau to form the invention of claims 11 and 14-16.

Applicant maintains, however that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each element of the claimed invention.

Applicant maintains, however, that neither Stephan nor Palalau, nor any alleged combination thereof, teaches or suggests, "guiding a finger along said guide portion to said reference position; and receiving a contact input on said surface of said touch sensor adjacent to said reference position based on guiding said finger along said guide portion to said reference position."

The Examiner alleges that the textured edges 192 and 194 of Stephan are equivalent to Applicant's "guide portion" that "guides a finger along the guide portion to a reference position."

However, Stephan fails to teach or suggest, and the Examiner fails to address a <u>reference position</u> to which <u>guide portion guides a finger to a reference position</u>. This

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feature of 's claimed invention is important for determining a specific location of a specific control feature operated by a user along the guide portion. The textured edges 192 and 194 that control the vertical scrolling and horizontal panning of Stephan fails to serve the same function as Applicant's <u>reference position</u> used to control <u>an adjustment value in accordance</u> with a direction of a slide operation.

The textured edges 192 and 194, as disclosed at column 10, lines 56-61, "indicate to a user that the user is located in the adjacent pan or scroll regions when the texturing is felt." Textured edges 192 and 194 fail to work in conjunction with any specific reference position. Additionally, Stephan discloses at column 12, lines 40-43 that "regions may be designated with visual or tactile clues as discussed above" allows "user contact with the touch screen at the appropriate location [and] allows control of the cursor, panning, or scrolling." Again, Stephan fails to teach or suggest that the visual or tactile clues work in conjunction with any specific reference position.

Indeed, Stephan teaches away from Applicant's claimed invention that any particular portion of the touch screen is used as a <u>reference position</u> used to control <u>an adjustment value</u> <u>in accordance with a direction of a slide operation</u>, in that column 7, lines 38-66 describe "relative" x and y-coordinate movement. This is clearly indicative that the tactile input on the touch pads are not in accordance with any particular <u>reference position</u> as claimed by Applicant, but rather, merely input "relative" x and y-coordinate movement to a cursor positioning/control system.

The Examiner admits that Stephan fails to teach or suggest, "<u>a guide portion</u>

<u>configured to protrude from a surface of said touch sensor and to fringe said surface with a</u>

<u>line configured by either a concave portion or a convex portion as a whole, including a</u>

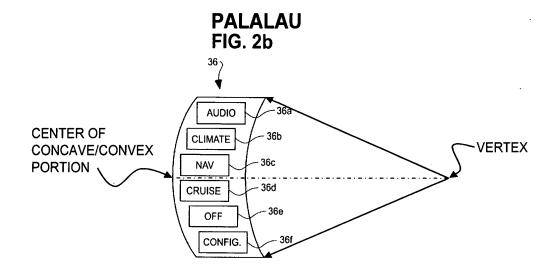
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reference position...located between a vertex and a center of one of said concave portion and said convex portion, said method comprising: guiding a finger along said guide portion to said reference position; and receiving a contact input on said surface of said touch sensor adjacent to said reference position based on guiding said finger along said guide portion to said reference position."

However, the Examiner alleges that the functions buttons 36a-f of Fig. 2b of Palalau is equivalent to Applicant's <u>reference position</u>.

Palalau fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention of "a guide portion configured to protrude from a surface of said touch sensor and to fringe said surface with a line configured by either a concave portion or a convex portion as a whole, including a reference position on a surface of the touch sensor located between a vertex and a center of one of said concave portion and said convex portion." As shown below with respect to Fig. 2b, Palalau fails to teach any "reference position" located between a vertex and a center of one of said concave portion and said convex portion.



The Examiner's interpretation of Applicant's reference position corresponding to each

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function 36a-f of Palalau is clearly erroneous since Palalau fails to teach any function 36a-f located between a vertex and a center of one of said concave portion and said convex portion.

Therefore, Palalau fails to overcome the deficiencies of Stephan.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection since the alleged prior art references to Stephan and Palalau (either alone or in combination) fail to teach or suggest each element and feature of Applicant's claimed invention.

G. The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 in view of Palalau et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,373,472 and further in view of Gillespie et al., U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2005/0024341

The Examiner alleges that Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185, in view of Palalau et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,373,472 (Stephan and Palalau), and further in view of Gillespie et al., U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2005/0024341, (Gillespie), makes obvious the invention of claims 12-13.

The Examiner alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Stephan and Palalau with the teaching from Gillespie to form the invention of claims 12-13. Applicant maintains, however that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each element of the claimed invention.

That is, Gillespie fails to make up for the deficiencies of Stephan and Palalau as discussed above.

The Examiner asserts Gillespie discloses a graphical image that represents an initial values and a parameter adjustment range.

However, even assuming arguendo that the Examiner's position has some merit,

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Gillespie fails to teach or suggest, "guiding a finger along said guide portion to said reference position; and receiving a contact input on said surface of said touch sensor adjacent to said reference position based on guiding said finger along said guide portion to said reference position." Therefore, Gillespie fails to overcome the deficiencies of Stephan and Palalau.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection since the alleged prior art references to Stephan, Palalau and Gillespie (either alone or in combination) fail to teach or suggest each element and feature of Applicant's claimed invention.

H. The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 in view of Palalau et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,373,472 and further in view of Serravalle, Jr., U.S. Pat. No. 4,631,525

The Examiner alleges that Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 in view of Palalau et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,373,472, (Stephan and Palalau), and further in view of Serravalle, Jr., U.S. Pat. No. 4,631,525, (Serravalle), makes obvious the invention of claims 17-19.

The Examiner alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Stephan and Palalau with the teaching from Serravalle to form the invention of claims 17-19. Applicant maintains, however that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each element of the claimed invention.

That is, Serravalle fails to make up for the deficiencies of Stephan and Palalau as discussed above.

The Examiner asserts Serravalle discloses and storing in a register the present value of an adjustment parameter in response to receiving a contact input on a surface of a touch

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sensor adjacent to your reference position.

However, even assuming arguendo that the Examiner's position has some merit,

Serravalle fails to teach or suggest, "guiding a finger along said guide portion to said

reference position; and receiving a contact input on said surface of said touch sensor

adjacent to said reference position based on guiding said finger along said guide portion to

said reference position." Therefore, Serravalle fails to overcome the deficiencies of Stephan
and Palalau.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection since the alleged prior art references to Stephan and Palalau and Serravalle (either alone or in combination) fail to teach or suggest each element and feature of Applicant's claimed invention.

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III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-20, all of the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a <u>telephonic or personal interview</u>.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Date: //uly 25, 2007

Respectfully Submitted,

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